The opening of a poor house is also engaging the attention of Government; and I trust this will be settled before the first year of His Highness's reign is over.

The opening of more child-welfare centres in the town depends, at the moment, on the finances of the Municipality.

The Assembly adjourned for lunch at 2-25 P. M. and met again at 3 P. M.

85. Needs of the Nedumangad taluk.

MR. S. JANARDANAN NAYAR (*Nedumangad taluk*) at the outset congratulated the Dewan on his assuming charge of the Administration just before the Assembly session as it gave him an opportunity to know the needs and requirements of the people of the State soon after his arrival as the Dewan.

Passing on to his subject, the member said that the taluk which he represented was a most important one. It was mainly mountainous. It had a very rich and wide area of reserved forests. Tapioca cultivation in the State was first begun in that taluk and was being carried on there in an extensive scale. Tapioca was the staple food of a large percentage of people in the State. The cultivation of pepper, rubber, coffee and tea was also largely carried on in the taluk. There were two water falls, one at Aruvikara in the Karamana river and the other at Aruvipuram in the Vamanapuram river, which could be utilised for generating electricity. There were also large extents of swampy areas inside the reserved forests in the taluk, which could be easily converted into fertile paddy fields without much capital and labour. These lands were useless to the Government from a forest point of view.

The taluk was deplorably lacking in facilities of means of communication. There were a few miles of road constructed by the Government, but they were neglected without proper maintenance and repair. There was a net-work of traces, mostly village roads opened by the people, which could be converted into good cart roads at a low cost. The people were also willing to hand them over to the Public Works Department for departmental maintenance.

The inhabitants of the taluk had not adequate facilities for educating their children. There were only two vernacular schools for girls in the taluk, of which one was in the Nedumangad town itself. This was housed in a dilapidated building constructed of mud and bamboos. The premises of the school were only 6 cents in extent. Almost all the vernacular schools in the taluk were housed in dilapidated and tottering sheds constructed with mud and old bamboos. There was only one English middle school in the whole taluk. The people of the taluk had surrendered a pucca building and compound worth about Rs. 25,000 for the purpose of converting the school into a High School. But, in spite of repeated requests, the modest prayer of the people to raise the school at least to the IV Form standard had been refused by the authorities on the ground of want of strength in the school.

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As a result of repeated representations a, Munsiff-Magistrate's Court was established in the taluk in 1103. But subsequently the Tahsildar of the taluk was invested with Second Class Magisterial powers in order to give relief to the Munsiff-Magistrate. This was not sufficient By the close of the 2nd quarter of 1107, 162 criminal cases besides revenue cases were pending with theTahsildar. The pendency in the Munsiff-Magistrate's Court consisted of 191 criminal cases, 699 original suits, 205 small cause suits and 296 execution petitions. It was therefore essential to bifurcate the Nedumangad Munsiff-Magistrate's Court into a full time Munsiff's Court and a First Class Magistrate's Court. It would appear that the Law's Delays Commissioner had recommended that the civil jurisdiction of some of the *pakuthies* or portions of *pakuthies* of the taluk should be transferred to the Munsiff's Courts at Attingal, Trivandrum and Neyyattinkara. This recommendation should not be accepted. It would divide the community of interest of the people of the taluk and also put them to serious sufferings and untold loss. The civil jurisdiction of the taluk should be co-extensive with that of the criminal and revenue jurisdiction so long as the Nedumangad taluk existed as a separate revenue entity.

The minor irrigation works of the taluk were ignored and neglected. The irrigation tanks and canals were not restored and properly maintained. Many of the tanks, known as *chiras*, originally intended to afford irrigation facilities had been registered away and had lately been converted into garden lands. So also many of the *karatodus* on the sides of paddy fields utilised to direct the course of water in and out of the paddy fields had been given away in registry along with the garden lands adjacent to them, to the great detriment to the owners of the paddy fields. It was essential that the registry of the *chiras* and *karatodus* already effected should be cancelled. They should either be registered in the names of the holders of the respective paddy fields or left as Government *poramboke* lands.

Village Panchayats should be constituted at an early date in important centres of the taluk such as Nedumangad, Kattakada Aryanad, Nannyod, Pirappankod and Vamanapuram. The inhabitants of the taluk were thankful to the Government for including the Nedumangad village also among the places selected for the constitution of Panchayats in the first instance. But Panchayats should be constituted at the other places also.

Medical aid in the taluk was scanty and insufficient. A Government dispensary at Vamanapuram, a thickly populated place, was an imperative need. A dispensary at the place would be of immense use not only to the people of Vamanapuram, but also of Pullampara, Manikkal, Nellanad and Vempayam in the Nedumangad taluk and Nagarur, Pulimat and Edakod in the Chirayankil taluk. There was a *satram* and a camp-shed at the place. The camp-shed was but seldom used. It might be utilised for housing the dispensary.

The taluk was allowed to return only one member to the Assembly, while it had no separate representation in the Legislative Council-

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Considering the area, population, number of voters and the general conditions of the taluk, the Trivandrum *cum* Nedumangad constituency should be bifurcated and the Nedumangad taluk should be allowed to return a member of its own to the Legislative Council.

The taluk was lacking in means of communication. This would be evident from the very large number of items included in the agenda under means of communication in the taluk. The conversion into cart roads of many of the traces, about which representations were made at the previous session of the Assembly, was approved by the District Road Board, but not a single item of work was actually taken in hand. Of the traces to be converted into cart roads the member wanted to make special mention of the Vavakavu—Aruvipuram trace, the Taikad—Pothenkod trace, the Aryanad—Kottakkakam trace, the Irinchiyal trace at Aryanad and the Vamanapuram—Nagarur trace.

Lastly, the member suggested the following measures which he said, would bring within an year's time a revenue of not less than Rs. 5 lakhs from his taluk:—

(1) The registry of wet lands (swampy areas) in the taluk in small blocks of 5 to 10 acres, to the inhabitants of the taluk. Large extents of such lands were available in the *pakuthies* of Palod, Anad, Veeranakavu and Aryanad. The proposal of the Government to sell the above lands in public auction was wrong in principle and should be reconsidered and revised.

(2) Registry of lands already occupied and improved as well as the lands not useful to be maintained as reserved forests in the Chekonam, Kottur and Cheriankod reserves.

(3) Registry of the grazing grounds of Pattara in the Vamanapuram pakuthi and Adikottukonam in the Palod pakuthi.

(4) Registry of the belt of land on either side of the Trivandrum—Shencotta road from the 24th milestone.

(5) Registry of the disafforested areas in the Pachamala. Chekonam and Valiamala reserves.

(6) Registry of the *puduval* lands available in the Aryanad, Palod and other *pakuthies* subject to reasonable and modest rates of *taravila* and *tadivila*.

(7) Registry of the lands available in Ponmudi in small blocks of 30 or 35 cents each in extent and encouragement of building construction under a town-planning system.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Your suggestions Mr. Janardanan Nayar, will be considered, and all the subjects you raised regarding the needs of your taluk will be attended to as circumstances and funds permit.

MEMBER: One word, with your permission, Sir. In each of the years 1095, 1096, 1097 and 1098, my taluk yielded a capital revenue of Rs. 3 lakhs and, if the representations I have now submitted are granted, Government are sure to get Rs. 5 lakhs at least next year.

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It is enough if a fraction of that money is utilised for the poor people of the taluk.

DEWAN : That will be enquired into.

MEMBER : Thank you, Sir.

86. Needs of the Chirayinkil taluk.

MR. KANDA PILLAI KALI PILLAI (*Chirayinkil taluk, Group I*) said that the major portion of the Mamam river lay in the *pakuthies* of Kizhvalam and Koontallur in the Chiryinkil taluk and was the mainstay of the agriculturists of the place for purposes of irrigation. The floods of 1098 caused many breaches in the banks of the river and also damaged many of the anicuts, rendering it unfit for irrigation purposes. The need for the restoration of the river banks as well as of the main dams was urged on the attention of the Government at the 25th session of the Assembly, but the *Statement of Action* taken on the representations in the Assembly showed that no action had been taken on the representation in the matter. The grant allotted annually for the maintenance of the river bed was quite inadequate and what little was sanctioned was not properly utilised. The member suggested that the restoration of the Kavanasseri dam and the dilapidated stone bridge there should be taken up at once. This would enable the ryots to raise two crops on large areas of paddy fieds which were lying fallow. The banks of the Mamam river on the northern side were being washed down by the floods every year causing very great loss to the owners of the adjoining paddy fields. The bank should be strengthened. A masonry dam should be put up across the junction near the Attingal main river to prevent silt from being washed down from the place where the Chankarattu dam was put up.

Two bridges should be constructed one across the Vettiyar canal for access from Azhur to Perumaturai and another across the Attingal river near the Kollampuzha ferry.

The Valakat-Chirayinkil road should be completed at an early date by extending the road as far as Chirayinkil and constructing the necessary bridges.

A cart road should be opened from midway between the 1st and 2nd mile stones of the Attingal-Chirayinkil road and joining the Quilon-Trivandrum road. The trace from Attingal to Warkalai should be made fit for cart traffic. A canal should be constructed between Kavanasseri and Paravur *ela* in Koontallur pakuthi. All the tanks and canals in the taluk useful for agricultural purposes should be properly maintained.

Agricultural loans should be advanced to the poor ryots on a larger scale and facilities should also be given for taking such loans.

The absence of a First Class Magistrate's Court in the taluk was keenly felt. If the opening of a court was not feasible, the Tahsildar of the taluk might be invested with the powers of a First Class Magistrate.

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